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Message Text

47
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 111224 Z MAY 73
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2615

PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: EAGR ETRD GATT EEC
SUB: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGET-
ABLES

REF: STATE 046171

1. SUMMARY. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
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WILL BE DISCUSSING THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES
FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES NEXT WEEK, WE HAVE AGAIN REITERATED TO SENIOR EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS OUR CONCERN WITH REGARD TO GATT- BOUND ITEMS. THE OFFICIALS TOOK NOTE OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS AND INDICATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZED THE SENSITIVITY OF THE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COMMISSION' S LONG- STANDING PROPOSAL FOR A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL AGAIN NEXT WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS LIKELY TO COME UP AT SESSIONS OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE ON MAY 14-15. (AGMINS AND FONMINS WILL BE HOLDING SEPARATE MEETINGS PLUS A JOINT SESSION ON MAY 15.)

3. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE COMMISSION IS ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE IT BELIEVES THAT A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM OFFERS THE ONLY BASIS FOR UNIFYING THE IMPORT REGIME FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THESE PRO-DUCTS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO NATIONAL IMPORT POLICIES (INCLUDING QUOTAS IN SOME CASES) IN THE VARIOUS MEMBER STATES. A MAJOR ADDITONAL FACTOR PROVIDING IMPETUS FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT THIS TIME IS THE FACT THAT THE MINISTERS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING THE COMMISSION' S MEMORANDUM ON MEDITERRANEAN POLICY.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, WE HAVE APPROACHED HIJZEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, AND MEMBERS OF LARDINOIS' CABINET. WE HAVE REMINDED THEM OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERN, AS EXPLAINED IN THE MISSION' S MARCH 14 NOTE TO THE COMMISSION (REFTEL). WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION ARE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AND ARE BOUND TO THE U. S. IN GATT (CANNED PEACHES, FRUIT COCKTAIL, CITRUS JUICES, DRIED PRUNES AND VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS). THE EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS TOOK NOTE OF OUR COMMENTS AND INDICATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MATTER.
GREENWALD.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU02615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730542/aaaaixgf.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 046171
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980202
Subject: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGET- ABLES
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, GATT
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

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THE HAGUE
Type: TE
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